

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-14 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 10 and 11 having been amended, Claims 6 and 12 canceled and Claim 14 added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Okimoto et al. (6,310,694).

In order to expedite issuance of a patent in the present application, and in light of the outstanding rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention in terms of the capability of the printer driver of the present invention to select a predetermined data format suitable for the electronic mail transmission from among a plurality of data formats other than a page description language (PDL) format. Similar changes have been made to Claims 10 and 11, and a new Claim 14 stating that the printer driver includes a means for determining a predetermined data format suitable for the electronic mail transmission being performed, has been added. Claims 6 and 12 have been canceled. Support for the subject matter stated in the new Claim 14 is provided by Applicant's Figure 6 disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

The prior Okimoto et al. patent discloses a printer driver that converts print data into a PDL (page description language) format, which is suitable for a printer.

On the other hand, the printer driver according to Applicant's invention can convert print data into a predetermined format by selecting the format from among a plurality of data formats other than a PDL format. Thus, the selected formats can be suitable for electronic mail transmission, while the print data converted into the PDL format has a relatively large amount of data, which may not be suitable for electronic mail transmission. In view of this distinction, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment claims patentably distinguishable over Okimoto et al.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, in light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', written over the printed name.

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An electronic mail transmitting apparatus for transmitting document data via electronic mail, said electronic mail transmitting apparatus comprising:

an application program for producing document data, said application program having a function to send a print instruction to print the document data; and

a printer driver activated by the print instruction of said application program, said printer driver having a function to convert the document data provided by said application program into a predetermined data format and a function to transmit the converted document data via electronic mail;

wherein the printer driver is capable of selecting the predetermined data format suitable for the electronic mail transmission from among a plurality of data formats other than a page description language (PDL) format.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

10. (Amended) A method for transmitting document data prepared by an application program via electronic mail, the method comprising the steps of:

transferring the document data to a printer driver by sending from said application program a print instruction for printing the document data;

selecting a predetermined data format suitable for electronic mail transmission from among a plurality of data formats other than a page description language data format;

converting the document data into a predetermined data format by said printer driver; and

transmitting the converted document data via electronic mail by an electronic mail transmitting function provided to said printer driver.

11. (Amended) A processor readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform a function of a printer driver, comprising:

first program code means for designating document data to be transmitted via electronic mail, the document data being provided to said printer driver in accordance with a print instruction;

second program code means for converting the document data into a predetermined data format; and

third program code means for transmitting the converted document data via electronic mail;

wherein said second program code means includes program code means for selecting a predetermined data format suitable for electronic mail

transmission from among a plurality of data formats other than a page
description language data format.

12. (Canceled)

14. (New)